

BEHAVIOR/ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIES AND SUPPORT TEAMS B.E.S.S.T.

What is a B.E.S.S.T Team?

The BESST Team is a site-based teacher/student/family assistance team, operating under on-going site-based leadership. The team has received training on how to efficiently and effectively identify behavioral problems and solutions and is committed to achieving lasting change through positive proactive problem-solving and action planning. Regularly scheduled meetings to strategize effective methods of establishing and maintaining positive environments that optimize learning opportunities for all students throughout the site are conducted by the BESST team.

Who May Request a BESST Effort?

Any site administrator, educator, parent or student may request a “BESST effort” to address a specific environment in which a student or group of students has been determined to have difficulties. A “BESST effort” may require use of strategies or supports so that student needs are achieved through the use of alternative positive behaviors in a conducive learning environment.

What is the Referral Process?

An individual site BESST will determine timelines and referral methods. Depending on the nature of the problem(s), a BESST team member may be assigned to briefly observe the environment prior to the meeting, or complete brief questionnaires to aid in further understanding student strengths, characteristics, skill deficits or unique variables before the meeting convenes.

What is the Content of a BESST Meeting?

A BESST Meeting is a one hour or less analytic process involving BESST members and the referring party as well as others as deemed appropriate to the situation such as family members, the student or others directly involved in the identified environment in which problem behavior occurs. The meeting strives to identify what strategies and supports may be necessary to address the problem. Problems are of two types:

1. If the problem is specific to an individual student, a Behavior Support Plan may be generated in this process. This BSP is based on BESST developed hypotheses as to why the behavior is on-going and what alternative behaviors may need to be taught or environmental changes may be necessary to meet individual needs. The resulting BSP is an action plan delineating teaching strategies, environmental changes, reactive strategies to use if the behavior occurs again, reinforcement methods and necessary future communication provisions between implementers, BESST members and involved individuals in the home and community once the plan is in force.
2. If the problem is more specific to a small group of students or the entire group in the environment, BESST members will analyze potential barriers to achieving success with that group and generate an action plan to assist teachers and/or other implementers in that environment in their efforts to make necessary change. This plan delineates specific environmental changes or teaching strategies to be used to achieve desired outcomes.